



Department Source: Cultural Affairs

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 5, 2021

Re: Accepting Gift of Art mural from Children's Grove in Flat Branch Park

Executive Summary

The nonprofit organization Children's Grove has submitted an artwork proposal for a mural project on a wall in Flat Branch Park. Per the Accepting Gifts of Works of Art ordinance, the proposal was presented to the Commission on Cultural Affairs who have recommended to City Council to accept the proposal for the mural project. Should Council accept, an agreement to authorize the organization to paint the mural needs approval.

Discussion

Per the Accepting Gifts of Works of Art Ordinance, found in Chapter 2 of the City Code of Ordinances, section 2-237, persons who wish to donate works of art to the City submit proposals to the Office of Cultural Affairs. Proposals can include existing artwork or work yet to be completed, such as a mural. The Commission on Cultural Affairs reviews the proposal and makes a recommendation to the City Council on whether to accept the gift.

At its March 8, 2021 meeting, the Commission on Cultural Affairs reviewed the proposal from the Children's Grove for a mural project on a wall in Flat Branch Park, summarized below. The Commission voted to recommend acceptance of this gift of art by City Council. Should Council accept, an agreement to authorize the organization to paint the mural needs approval.

Overview of Project and Design

Children's Grove, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is proposing a mural project on the retaining wall leading into the tunnel of Locust Street in Flat Branch Park. They have consulted with Parks & Recreation staff, who supports the project at this location in the park.

Children's Grove works to inspire a culture of kindness and to support the mental and emotional well-being of children and youth.

The organization's values will be promoted in the mural through iconography such as holding hands and walking arm and arm. Butterflies will be featured in several spots on the mural. The color scheme will be bright colors that include the greens and oranges consistent with the Children's Grove logo. Illustrations of people will have minimal detail though infer differences in race and gender. Each character will feature a characteristic that represents a unique demographic. There will be a focus on movements that capture a range of abilities including a person in a wheelchair and a person with a support dog, as well as promoting the safety of wearing a helmet while riding a bike. This mural will display directional movement that celebrates the flow of the MKT walkers, bicyclists, and families will all be featured making their way down the incline into the tunnel. To give a sense of geography, Missouri elements



City of Columbia

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like local plant and animal life will be present. This mural will be color blocked to account for budget, style and upkeep. This will help conserve supplies and labor time while allowing viewers to comprehend the mural easily as they ride or walk past. Each segment will flow together directionally down the incline to the tunnel.



Mural Design



Rendering of mural at Flat Branch Park wall location

Artist and Maintenance

With input from Children's Grove, the artist Adrienne Luther created the design. Luther will install the mural with the help of two fellow artists. Durable paint along with a final layer of anti-graffiti sealant will be used, consistent with the process for other mural installation in MKT Trail tunnels.

The City will bear no cost for this project. Children's Grove and the artist will provide any maintenance needed on the project for the first 5 years (similar to other plans for the existing trail tunnel murals).



Agreement

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an agreement with Children's Grove for the project. The Office of Cultural Affairs, Parks & Recreation, and the Law Department have reviewed the terms of the agreement.

Schedule of Project

If Council approves the project, Children's Grove will begin work on the mural. It is planned to be installed in May 2021, and completed no later than June 15, 2021 per terms of the agreement.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Public Safety, Tertiary Impact: Economy

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Economic Development Communities, Tertiary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation

Legislative History

Date	Action
3/8/21	Commission on Cultural Affairs recommended acceptance of gift of art of mural from Children's Grove

Suggested Council Action

If Council agrees, city staff recommends approval of the resolution as proposed.